Phase-I in Uttar Pradesh, by and large, are beign operated satisfactorily. To control pollution on account of dumping of human and cattle waste in the river, programmes to generate awareness to keep the river clean and to seek people's participation in this endeavour are on.

Introduction of CT-20R PHS Telephones in India

412. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:
SHRI RAGHAVJI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICAITONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent press reports about the introduction of inexpensive CT-2 Telephones or PHS Telephones in Singapore, Japan and USA which cost much less than the Cellular Telephones, and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government would consider the introduction of new CT-2 or PHS Telephoens, as a value added communication service in India, particularly when they cost less than one-fourth the price of Cellular Telephones but can perform more than 80% of their functions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE Of THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. MTNL had conducted field trials only for CT-2 technology to a limited extent in Delhi and Bombay. The services offered by CT-2 are generally acceptable although limited in facilities compared to Cellular Telephones. CT-2 and Cellular phoens have different features and address different markets and are supplementary in nature.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

Supply of Contaminated Kerosene

413. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that contaminated kerosene was supplied to consumers by certain companies;

(b) if so, the details of such companies, and the action proposed to be taken against them;

(c) steps being contemplated by Government to prevent such incidents in future; and

(d) the compensation paid to the families of deceased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that during February-March, 1994, there was an incident of supply of contaminated kerosene in and around Kota supply area Ex-Kota Depot of the IOC in Rajasthan.

The Enquirty Committee appointed by the Government has recommended various steps to prevent such accidents in furture. Accordingly, the oil companies are observing quality control guidelines as per industry quality control manual at all locations in addition to imparting training at grass-root level, including the wholesale kerosene dealers, and carrying out regular and surprise inspections.

(d) A total amount of Rs. S3 lakhs was paid to the families of the deceased by the IOC.

Waiting List for Telephone in Karnataka

414. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the waiting list for telephone connections in Karnataka, Exchange-wise;

(b) the date by which the waiting list will be cleared; and

(c) the details of expansion programme of telephone exchanges for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Exchange-wise waiting list for telephone connections as on 31.3.95 is as per Annexure [See Appendix ITY. Annexure-15).

(b) National Telecom Policy 1994 envisages provision of Telephone Connections on Demand allover the country including Karnataka Circle by March, 1997.

(c) The target for providing about 1,91,000 lines as expansion of exchange capacity for various types of exchanges has been fixed during the current year.

Strike by Telecom Employees

415. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI VIRENDERA KATARIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR
SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom employees went on strike in June this year;

(b) if so, what were their main demands; and

(c) on what terms the issues were resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Their main demand was stoppage of privatisation of Telecom.

(c) A copy of the agreement dated 23.6.1995 signed by the DOT with the Staff Federations is in the statement enclosed.

Statement

COPY OF AGREEMENT DATED 23.6.1995 signed by the DOT with THE STAFF FEDERATIONS.

Agreement signed between Chairman Telecom Commission and Secretary Department of Telecommunications, Government of India with Leader, Staff Side, JCM-Departmental Council, and Secretary Generals of National Federation of Telecom Employees, Federation of National Telecom Organisations and Bhartiya Telecom employees Federation on June 23, 1995.

1. The Federations contention about the role of foreign companies and other aspects about the entry of Private Sector in Basic Telecom Services as violation of NTP is sub judice.

2. As for the demand relating to fixation of tariff and access charges, it was agreed that since the Government has already announced the formation of TRAI, all the related issues will be referred to the TRAI by the the DOT after it has been established.

3. New switching capacity for each SSA of the DOT will be determined by the concerned Chief General Managers in charge of the Circle. However, locational planning of such capacity within the SSA will be decided by the local management in consultation with representatives of the recognised Unions/Associations.

4. It is agreed that the DOT will be subjected to the same standards of performance and quality of service in the field of competition.

5. It is agreed that the DOT will be free to enter into the operation of the value added services at any time based on its best commercial judgement.

6. It is agreed to appoint a Committee of senior officers to make proposals of how the DOT's status could be upgraded and how it could be made more efficient and customer friendly so as to prepare it for competition. This Committee will be expected to submit its report within three months.

The report of this committee will be placed before the reforms committee before the Government takes any final decision in the matter.

7. It is agreed that if the DOT is ordered by a Court or a Consumer Forum to pay refund, fine, compensation